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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/267,420	03/11/1999	ALFRED ALASIA	1455.028	7018

7590 08/28/2003

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EXAMINER

HENDERSON, MARK T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3722

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/267,420	ALASIA, ALFRED
Examiner	Art Unit	
Mark T Henderson	3722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 37-45 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Faxing of Responses to Office Actions

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, TC 3700 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at (703)872-9302 (Official) and (703)872-9303 (for After Finals). This practice may be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into TC 3700 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Claims 1-36 in Paper No. 3 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that all the claims could be searched and examined without undue burden on the examiner. This is not found persuasive because Claims 1-36 are directed to a self-authenticating article which does not require the limitations of the optical lens being produced by

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an intaglio engraving process (*In re Thorpe*) which is disclosed as a process in method Claims 37-

45. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. This application contains claims 37-45 which are drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in Paper No. 3. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancelation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2, 7, 16, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Claim 2 recites the limitation "said authenticating means" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

4. In Claim 7, line 2, it is not understood what is meant by "wherein said hidden indicia are associated with said plastic paper substitute".

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5. In Claim 16, line 2, it is not understood what is meant by “wherein said hidden indicia are associated with said plastic paper substitute”.

6. In Claim 34, line 2, it is not understood what is meant by “wherein said hidden indicia are associated with said plastic paper substitute”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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7. Claims 1-7, 9-16, 18-25, 27-34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taylor et al (WO98/15418).

Taylor et al disclose in Fig. 1-4, a self-authenticating article comprising: a plastic paper substitute (2) which can be in the form of a banknote or travelers checks, or the like having indicia (4); authenticating means for revealing hidden indicia (21) which comprises one or more latent images (Col. 1, lines 12-31 and Col. 2, lines 1-9), wherein the means is an inlaid, preformed, decoding lens (21, Col. 4, lines 5-16) defines an authenticating area (5) which forms a unitary and integral structure in combination with the plastic paper substitute; wherein the authenticating area (5) is positionable in juxtaposed relation to the hidden indicia thereby providing instant verification of the authenticity of the article (Col. 4, lines 21-30)

In regards to **Claims 5, 6, 14, 23, and 32**, the patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by process claims is the same or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process (*In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985)). Therefore, the lens and latent images can be produced by any desired process.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 8, 17, 26, and 35, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor et al.

Taylor et al disclose a self-authenticating article comprising all the elements as claimed in Claims 1, 10, 19 and 28, and as set forth above. However, Taylor et al does not disclose wherein the plastic paper substitute is selected from the group consisting of synthetic resin films having a high degree of writability and printability, laminate composite structures including combinations of paper and non-paper materials, latex saturated durable papers, coated polyolefin substrates formed from randomly dispersed and bonded polyolefin filaments, reinforced papers, and combinations thereof.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the article in any desired material, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

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Prior Art References

The prior art references listed in the attached PTO-892, but not used in a rejection of the claims, are cited for (their/its) structure. Beck, Taylor et al ('380), Fell et al, Daniel et al, Alasia, Warner et al, Lawandy et al, Kaish et al, Tureck et al, Merry et al, Brugada, Warner et al ('609), Rhoads, Rhoads ('963), Koltai et al, Rosenthal, Rosenthal ('150), Rosenthal ('794), Cioffi et al, Roule et al, Morrone et al, Long, and Alasia (717) discloses security authenticating documents.

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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark T. Henderson whose telephone number is (703)305-0189. The examiner can be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:30 AM to 3:45 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner supervisor, A. L. Wellington, can be reached on (703) 308-2159. The fax number for TC 3700 is (703)-872-9302. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 3700 receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148.



MTH

August 21, 2003



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